

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of isolating at least at least one application from other applications on the same node, comprising the steps of:
  - 5 (a) assigning a virtual IP address to one or more applications at run time, said virtual IP address being node independent and remaining assigned to said applications for as long as they are in existence;
  - (b) grouping applications together to reside in discrete virtual environments based on said virtual IP addresses referencing the same network/subnet;
  - 10 (c) allowing applications to communicate with other applications within the same virtual environment;
  - (d) preventing applications residing in said first virtual network environment from communicating with applications in second virtual network environment.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, further including the step of allowing applications residing in a network environment to communicate with applications not residing within a virtual environment.